

Program: SS Panel 2025 3 Q

Quarterly title: Exodus

Quarterly author: Jiří Moskala

Lesson Title: #09 *Living the Law (Sabbath)*

For Lesson Dates: Date Here, 2025

Section title: Wednesday- An Eye for an Eye

Record date: Wednesday July 22 , 2025

Note: This color and font = quarterly text

Note: This color and font = John Dinzey notes

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Question:

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REF:>>

READ

NIL: Not in Lesson

John Dinzey.2025.Q3.L09. An Eye for an Eye

Lesson 9

**August 23-29*

Living the Law

SABBATH AFTERNOON

Read for This Week's Study: *Exod. 21:1-32, Exod. 22:16-23:33, 2 Kings 19:35, Matt. 5:38-48, Rom. 12:19, Matt. 16:27.*

Memory Text: “Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: “You have seen that I have talked with you from heaven. You shall not make anything to be with Me—gods of silver or gods of gold you shall not make for yourselves” ’ ” (Exodus 20:22, 23, NKJV).

WEDNESDAY

August 27

An Eye for an Eye

Exodus 21:24-25 24 eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot,
25 burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

Read Matthew 5:38–48. How does Jesus interpret the meaning of the retaliation law? How should we apply it today?

Matthew 5:38–48 38 “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’

39 But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

40 If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have *your* cloak also.

41 And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.

42 Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’

44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more *than others*? Do not even the tax collectors do so?

48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

****READ****

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus Christ cited texts from the Old Testament, texts that people were surely familiar with. However, He was speaking against the current rabbinical interpretations, which over the centuries had moved away from the original purpose of these laws. That is, human tradition not only hid the purpose of God's Word but, in some cases (think of the Sabbath regulations and what they had done to the Sabbath commandment) had perverted their intent and meanings. **By His words, Jesus was restoring the original meanings of these laws.**

On the Mount of Beatitudes, by pointing His hearers back to the texts' original intent and meaning, Jesus was seeking to correct some of these false interpretations.

The text from Exodus 21:24 that talks about an "eye for eye, tooth for tooth" was quoted in Matthew 5:38 ("you have heard . . . but I say to you") and referred to the *lex talionis*, the so-called retaliation law. This verse is also used in other places in the Bible (Lev. 24:20, Deut. 19:21).

****READ****

The original intention of this law was formulated against any personal revenge. It was to stop blood feuds, or retaliation without an investigation first. Injury had to be evaluated by judges, and then a proper monetary compensation would be established and paid. This practice was done in order to stop people from "taking the law into their own hands." Justice was to be done, but it had to be done according to God's law.

Psalm 18:46 The Lord lives! Blessed *be* my Rock! Let the God of my salvation be exalted.

47 It is God who avenges me, And subdues the peoples under me;

48 He delivers me from my enemies. You also lift me up above those who rise against me; You have delivered me from the violent man.

49 Therefore I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the []Gentiles, And sing praises to Your name.

Some people say:

>> I am going to give him a piece of my mind.

>> I'm going to give him a piece of his own medicine.

>> **Proverbs 24:29** Do not say, "I will do to him just as he has done to me; I will render to the man according to his work."

Proverbs 20:22 Do not say, "I will recompense evil"; Wait for the Lord, and He will save you.

Jesus did not retaliate when He was mistreated - He turned the other cheek

Isaiah 53:5 But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

Jesus Christ, who gave these social laws to Moses, knew the purpose of this law; therefore, He could apply it in an objective way, according to its original intention. The motive behind it was to bring justice and reconciliation, and to restore peace.

One could argue that, in a sense, justice implies a kind of vengeance. The proper application of these laws was, it seemed, an attempt to find the right balance between the ideas of justice and vengeance.

How should the realization that one day justice will come help you deal with all the injustice that we see in the world now?